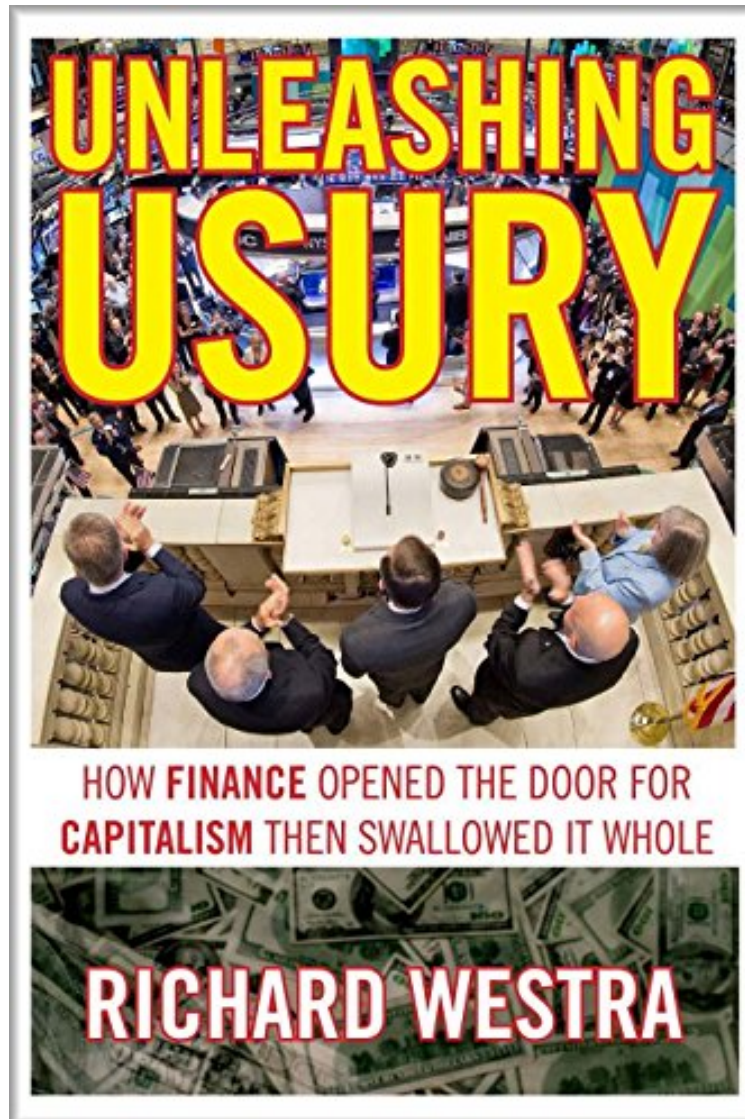


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# Unleashing Usury: How Finance Opened the Door for Capitalism Then Swallowed It Whole

*Richard Westra*

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**Richard Westra : Unleashing Usury: How Finance Opened the Door for Capitalism Then Swallowed It Whole** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Unleashing Usury: How Finance Opened the Door for Capitalism Then Swallowed It Whole:

Usury laid medieval society to waste. Western civilization was saved by the rise of capitalism, which tamed the activities of money lending, and endowed them with socially redeeming value, tethering finance to expanding production of material goods and increased social wealth. Now, as the 21st century begins, bloating tides of money with no possibility of ever being converted into real capital wash over the world. Finance again has turned to its dark side, using money to make money with no socially redeeming purpose. Such is the endgame of economies managed by capitalists without capitalism. As Marx foresaw, capitalist society, like all others, is destined to be outpaced by history as the conditions of its existence decompose and become a drag on the human future. Either we will succeed in bringing about new politico-economic structures—or civilization will collapse into barbarism, just as usury broke it down in the past.

“It is my hope that this book will be widely read by scholars, politicians, and all those who are troubled by our global economy.” -- Robert Albritton, Prof. Emeritus, York University  
Westra brilliantly dissects the West-East sweep of overaccumulated capital, allowing him to put financialization in proper perspective. If you tire of circling around worsening inequality, imperialism and other “idle-money” symptoms of economic crisis, and instead you want to drill down to find root causes within capitalism’s putrefying remnants, as Westra puts it, this is a superb guidebook.” -- Patrick Bond, Professor of Political Economy, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg  
About the Author  
Richard Westra is Designated Professor at the Graduate School of Law, Nagoya University, Japan and Visiting Professor at the Institute of Political Economy, Carleton University, Canada. He has authored and edited 13 books and is co-editor of Journal of Contemporary Asia. His Ph.D. was completed in 2001 at the Department of Political Studies, Queen’s University, Canada. Among his numerous international publications he authored *The Evil Axis of Finance*, Clarity Press, 2012 and *Exit from Globalization*, Routledge, 2014.